

Subject: New Year; New Opportunities
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Los Angeles City Controller

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Happy Rosh Hashanah

Wishing All Who Will Be Celebrating the Jewish New Year This Week a Year of Health, Happiness and Peace. Happy 5777!

ControlPanel LA

UtilityPanel LA

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Gas Co. Franchise Audit: The Opportunity to Negotiate a Better Deal For Angelenos



Southern California Gas Co. provides a vital service to the people of Los Angeles, delivering gas to homes and businesses courtesy of the franchise agreement between the City and SoCalGas. The granting by the City of that franchise is a privilege, which is one reason my office released an audit calling on the City to negotiate a new franchise agreement with the gas company. We also called on the City to insist that the utility pay additional fees for the right to sell gas and for the use of public rights of way, and to ensure that residents are

more fully protected in the event of safety problems like those that occurred recently in the Porter Ranch area.

Simply put, the gas company needs to pay its fair share to the City and to be subject to more local oversight. With the current franchise set to expire soon, L.A. has the opportunity both to increase revenue and protect the communities of Los Angeles.

Read [the Audit](#)

Read "[LA audit seeks more revenue from city's SoCalGas franchise agreement](#)" in the Daily News

DWP Incentives: The Opportunity to Capture More Rain



Los Angeles has various incentives to save water, and it's important that we constantly evaluate the data on them to ensure that the incentives are helpful and delivering the best returns on investment possible.

Last year my office [audited DWP's water conservation programs](#). One of our conclusions was that turf removal can be a great way to save water, but may not be the most cost-effective incentive the City can provide.

Last week, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners tightened criteria for water rebates. Among the new requirements, water customers will now have to install rainfall capture elements and have landscaping in which native or climate-appropriate plants cover at least 50 percent of the converted areas. These new standards will help maximize the value of rebates and ensure that we're not only spending money to save water, but to capture it as well.

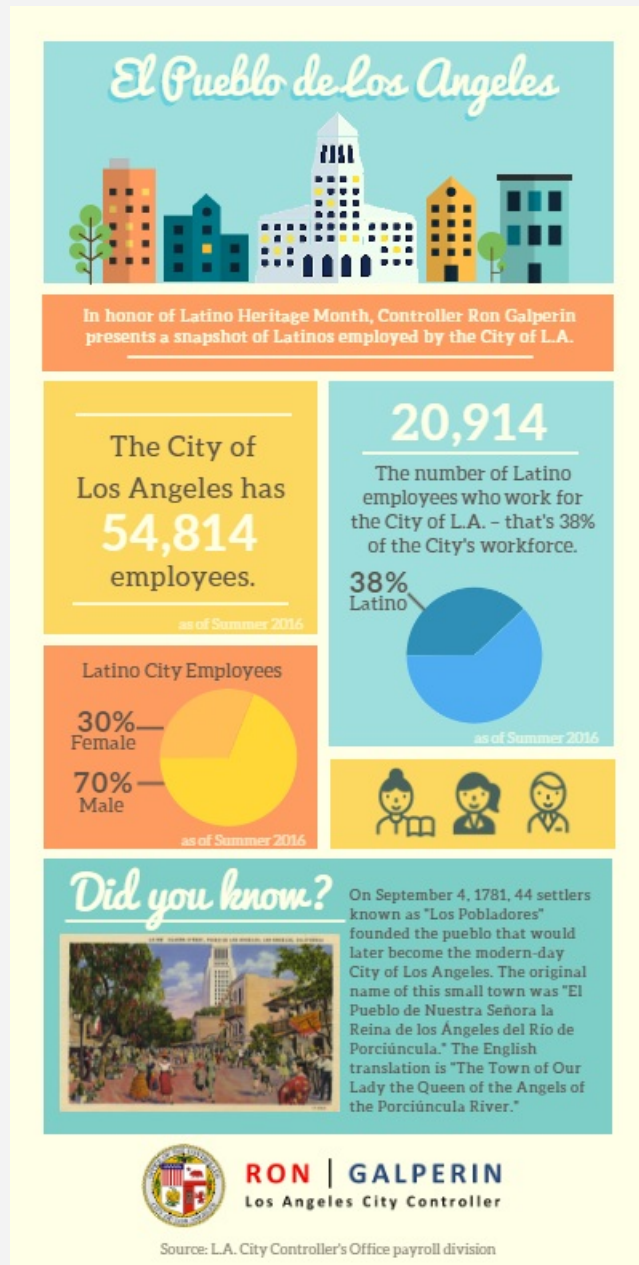
Read "[No more cash for fake grass](#)" in the LA Times

Latino Heritage Month: The Opportunity to Celebrate Our City's Diversity

[Latino Heritage Month](#) is here! While the celebrations will be filled with music, art, dancing and, of course, lots of great food, here in the Controller's Office we thought we'd celebrate in a way that won't affect your waistline:

For this edition of our Data of the Month, we present a look at

Latino employment in the City of Los Angeles. Do you see any interesting trends in the data? Let us know on [Twitter](#). And in the meantime, enjoy the festivities. Feliz mes de la herencia hispana!



Labor Day: The Opportunity to Honor Working Men and Women



More than 40,000 City employees, including police officers, firefighters, parks employees, and librarians honor us every day

with their hard work. On Labor Day, it's our turn to honor them. This past Labor Day, I joined other elected officials at the 37th annual Labor Day parade in Wilmington. After the parade, we served food and refreshments to all of the participants.

Get to Know Us: Why Processing Payroll is Like Cooking a Good Meal

Here in the Controller's office, 150 talented and dedicated professionals make the office run. Rather than tell you what each of them does, I thought I'd let them tell you directly about their work in our new feature, "Get to Know Us."

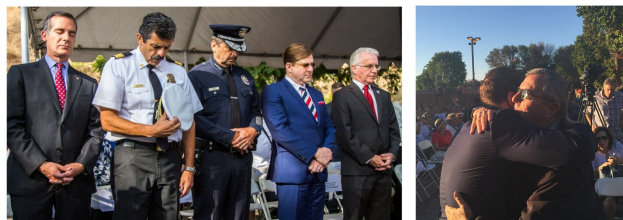


It's not easy to run the the day-to-day business of the City--that includes processing payroll for more than 43,000 employees. It takes a special person to run that kind of an operation. Linh Vo, a 22-year veteran of the City, is our Director of Systems. And payroll is her passion.

"Payroll is like cooking a meal for someone. The smile on their face tells you it was worth it and makes you feel really good."

Outside of work, Linh, who has a son in college, enjoys painting and volunteering with different cancer organizations.

Around the Community



Remembering and honoring those we lost on 9/11.



Celebrating the people who give back to the community at the Chinatown Service Center's 45th annual gala.





Carbs and commerce were on everyone's mind at the LA Area Chamber's Accenture Pancakes and Politics Breakfast.



I joined Councilmember David Ryu to welcome the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of LA to City Hall.



I didn't dance, but I did help Chabad raise funds for community programs at its annual telethon.



The Valley Economic Alliance is in the capable hands of its new board members, whom I helped swear in a few weeks ago.



It was empowering to speak at the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.



Business and leadership were the stars as we celebrated the Hollywood Media Business Improvement District's 16 years of success.



Why am I grinning? Because we won two awards from Government Technology News for our MyPayLA mobile app, which gives City employees quick access to payroll info, and our "Ready for Takeoff" LAX interactive dashboard.



A shared focus on efficiency and accountability united members of my staff with representatives from the Controller's Office of Chungnam Province, South Korea.

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